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D. M. MARRS EDITOR
M. E. MILFORD, MANAGER.

VINITA, I. T. OCTOBER 14, 1898

Our esteemed contemporary, the Muskogee Phoenix, exercises the liberty of printing a good deal of matter from the DAILY CHIEFTAIN verbatim without credit, and to which we have no very serious objection. But the Phoenix is about the only paper of any consequence in the Indian Territory that forgot to notice the fact that the CHIEFTAIN was printing a daily paper.

Col. A. S. McKennon, of the Dawes commission, who has been at Washington, D. C., for the past three weeks on business connected with the commission and the interior department, passed through the city last Sunday evening en route to Colbert where he goes to join the commission again, at which place they are now stationed and busily engaged in the taking of the enrollment.—Phoenix.

It is given out on good authority that Chief Isparhecher will call an election to be held the first Tuesday in November, at which the Creek citizens will express themselves as to whether they will ratify the Creek treaty or abide by the Curtis law. This election has been looked forward to with much interest as for some time a large majority of Creeks have been trying to get the chief to call the election. Council is now in session and has been for some time but will probably adjourn the latter part of the week until after the election is held when they will again meet to canvass the vote and act upon several measures. At present they have not done much in the way of legislation of any kind outside of deciding to have the election called to vote on the treaty.—Phoenix.

A school boy out in the country wrote the following composition: The school teacher is an animal which is very common in these ere diggings, hit has 2 legs which are fastened on to the lower end of hits body and extend all the way down to hits feet. Hit has 2 arms which are fixed 1 on one side and tother so hit can hold a feller's britches in 1 han whilst hit spansks the life outen him with tother. Hit is pervided with many of the invenshuns of civilizashun, such as eyes, nose, mouth, etc. Hit often has real hair on hits head, and almost human eares are fixed on the side of hits noggin in a very purty manner. Hit will eat nearly anything hit can get hits hands on, but hit is peticterly fon of chilun.

In a reported interview a few days ago a member of the Dawes commission, stated that Choctaws and Chickasaws could take their allotments in either nation. The masses of the people have always understood it this way, but many were undecided about it and will be glad to learn that the commission takes this view. It is not now expected that the enrollment in this nation will begin until the first of next year and maybe not before spring.—Atoka Citizen.

TO WARD OFF DANGER.

Amulets to Guard Soldier Boys from
Bullet and Plague—Charms
from Fair Hands.

It is the proper thing just now, according to the feminine idea, to furnish each soldier with a charm against the dangers of battle and disease, and it is a right pretty sentiment. It affords women folk an opportunity to show their kindly interest in the absent troops, and the latter are pleased with the evidence of love and attention. There is not a man at the front but who

is anxious to receive and wear an amulet of some kind. And this is not because the boys in blue are superstitious or awed by the prospects of danger—they are all too busy, too excited and interested and patriotically eager to have time for such thoughts.

The women who are sending these charms to the soldiers disclaim any belief in supernatural protection. "Of course," they say, "we do not believe our charm will really save the wearer from danger. Oh, no! nor are we the least bit superstitious, but it is just the satisfaction of the thing."

And such it is—a satisfaction of the same kind as when a girl after spilling the salt invariably throws some over her left shoulder. She does not believe in bad luck, but people say that a pinch of the spilled article thrown to the left makes it impossible for danger to overtake her, and so the girl who is not superstitious casts the salt over her left shoulder.

There is no set form or size or shape for soldiers' amulets. Everything is used, from a tiny watch chain trinket to a dried potato; the only requisite is that it must have been thrice blessed by the person sending it. Esthetic taste favors some article of jewelry, and manufacturers and retailers are kept busy these days supplying the demand. One of the most popular amulets is a combination flag and four-leaf-clover watch-chain charm. It is a dainty little conceit, made of a circular piece of cardboard, covered in white corded silk, on one side of which is mounted a flag and on the other a natural pressed four-leaf clover. Over these is placed glass, which is held together by a gold or silver band, with a ring attachment. These are of various sizes, both the flat, narrow designs and the round ones with magnifying glasses being popular.

Then there is the never-failing and all-powerful rabbit's foot and turkey's claw. The virtue of these charms, especially the rabbit's foot, which is guaranteed to be the left hind foot of a bunny shot in a graveyard at night by a cross-eyed negro, is widely admitted in all classes of society, from the dusky, bare-toed, ragged newsboys who shoot craps at a cent a pass to the rich business men who play poker with five-dollar chips. It makes no difference that it is generally known that the manufacturers who prepare these charms buy the rabbit's feet by the hundred from South Water street commission firms, or pick them up at the restaurants, there is not a girl in Chicago who wouldn't spend the last penny of her allowance in buying one for her absent soldier boy. As for the turkey claw, mystery surrounds its merits. It is popular as an amulet, but nobody knows why.

Dewey mascots are also in great demand. These are made in various forms. One is a small picture of Dewey mounted on the shank of a rabbit's foot; another is a picture placed on a small metal flag.

But the girl that desires to be original and individual plans her own amulet, making it personal, and therefore of double protective value. The most popular form of these is a gold bangle about the size of a half-dollar, but as thin as it can be made. This is engraved with the initials of giver and recipient, and some appropriate design, quotation, or sentiment. It must be attached to a gold chain and worn constantly.

The sailor boy is not forgotten, and has his own particular amulets, as well as the soldier. The most conspicuous of these is the "Union Jack," the sailors' flag of blue, profusely dotted with 48 stars, each signifying a state. These are placed on all kinds of jewelry, embroidered on handkerchiefs, and engraved on bangles.

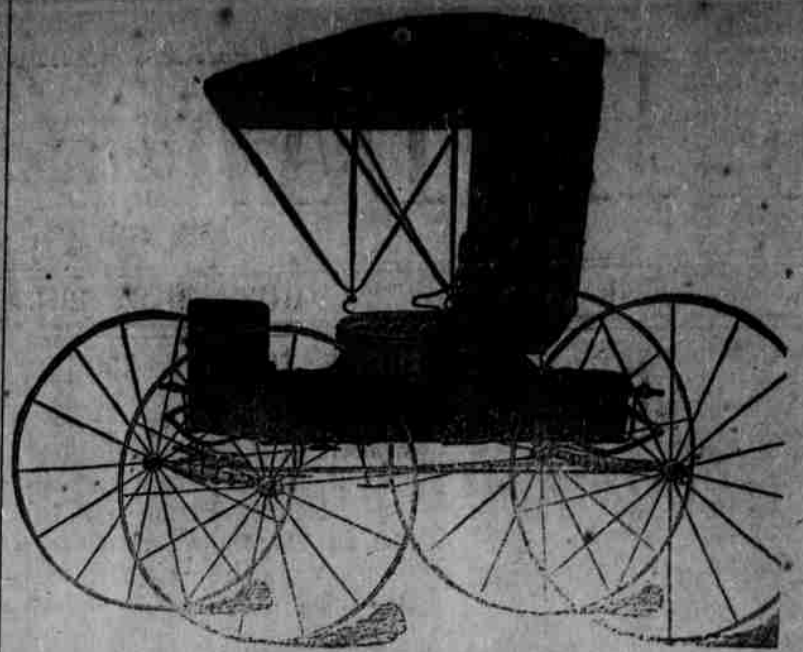
It is mostly the sweethearts and sisters of the soldiers who haunt the jewelry stores in search of pretty amulets. The mothers and aunts and wives pick up theirs in radically different places. These latter think first of the miasmatic climate into which the soldier boys have gone, and the amulets they send take the shape of medicated flannel, abdominal bandages, or bracelets for arms and wrists.

"You must wear these constantly," these mothers, aunts, and wives write to their soldier relatives, "so as to guard your health against chills and fever and similar ills. Some of them buy wild olive flower bags, which the women of Louisiana assert will save the wearers from fever, if suspended from the neck. The loving wife thinks of her husband's last touch of rheumatism, and puts a dried potato into his pocket or buys him an electric ring for his little finger.

A tiny white silk pocket, containing charcoal hung by a ribbon around the throat, is supposed to keep away the dreaded "Yellow Jack." When it can be afforded, a turquoise ring of gold or silver is also worn to render the soldier impregnable to the ravishes of typhoid.

"It's all nonsense, doing these things," say the soldiers. "We only wear them to please and satisfy the women."

But down in a corner of their hearts there is a little superstitious belief in each amulet given them, and with true gallantry and fond thoughts of the giver, and considerable faith in their protective qualities, the soldiers wear them one and all, some of the boys having as many as half a dozen charms about them all the time.



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